

Five-Goal Slide To Cup Final

Wycombe Wanderers 5,
Wokingham Town 2.

THREE opportunist goals by centre-forward Peter Lowen, on his old home ground, put Wycombe Wanderers safely into the final of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup competition against Wokingham Town at Maidenhead.

There was never any doubt about the issue in this game—but for the Wanderers it was a victory without distinction and for their handful of supporters a triumph without inspiration.

It was a game which may well have broken records for a cup semi-final—for the sparseness of the attendance, for the wretchedness of the weather and the playing conditions. And the play matched the depressing scene, with little football skill and few thrills.

Although obviously much more individually competent than their Athenian League Division I rivals, Wycombe took a long time to demonstrate their superiority. And when eventually they had established a four-goal lead they slackened complacently to allow defiant Wokingham to escape a rout.

TWO UP

After Wokingham's initial lively aggression had spent itself fruitlessly in the rain and mud, the ascendancy of Wycombe's hearty half-back line of Pullin, Roystone and Gale gradually gave the Wanderers the initiative.

Lowen, after 22 minutes, and Hodges, a few seconds before half-time, gave them a comfortable interval lead.

With Hodges and Horseman picking holes in an industrious but unimaginative defence, it might have been several more but for some plucky saves by goalkeeper Hammond—and if Balson, who came in belatedly for Williams, had had better control in marksmanship.

GOAL-RUSH

Control was certainly difficult enough in the clinging mud and driving rain, and the second half brought little improvement for the few drenched and disconsolate spectators, though at least there were five more goals to show for the see-saw slithering.

Lowen almost sauntered through for Wycombe's third while Wokingham's backs apparently waited for an offside decision. And two minutes later Tony Horseman, gradually regaining something of his old verve, flashed in a fourth. As Wycombe swarmed round

the Wokingham goal, with sometimes all the forwards, and the busy Beck, taking a smack in the muddy melee, it looked likely at one stage to develop into a goal-riot.

But Beevers, who had taken over at centre-forward for the injured Ballard, stopped the rot with an audacious goal which caught Roystone's boys napping.

Eight minutes before the close Lowen broke away again to add Wycombe's fifth but almost immediately diehard Wokingham swept back for Beevers to outwit the backs and beat Bunting a second time.

Wycombe Wanderers.—C. Bunting; J. Beck, A. Lewis; G. Pullin, P. Roystone, C. Gale; B. French, A. Horseman, P. Lowen, J. Balson, P. Hodges.

Wokingham Town.—A. Hammond; H. Cox, D. Harding; P. Hearmon, P. Brazier, T. Lambert; B. Goodenough, W. Beevers, M. Ballard, D. Phillips, J. Cole.